

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 28, 2012

Media Contact: Robert B. Thomas, Jr., Manager of Communications – 443-617-1954

Harford County Emergency Operations Center Fully Activated

Voluntary evacuation of Havre de Grace underway

(Bel Air, MD) - - The Harford County Division of Emergency Operations has implemented Level 3 activation in preparation for Hurricane Sandy. Level 3 activation is a full activation of the EOC on a 24-hour basis. The EOC staffing commenced at noon on Sunday, October 28, 2012.

"The EOC has been activated as part of our emergency preparedness and response to Hurricane Sandy, said Russell J. Strickland, Manager of the Division of Emergency Operations. "The EOC, under the direction of Emergency Manager Rick Ayers, will be staffed by personnel from various departments of county and municipal government as well as the State of Maryland. Our team is well trained and prepared to deal with severe weather events such as what we are anticipating from Hurricane Sandy," Strickland said.

In preparation for the impending storm, the Division of Emergency Operations, in cooperation with City of Havre de Grace officials and the Harford County fire and emergency services, are advising citizens of Havre de Grace, to consider evacuating from their homes ahead of the storm. The voluntary self-evacuation is for those citizens who live near or reside in areas that are prone to flooding.

"We believe Hurricane Sandy is unlike previous storms that have impacted Harford County," said County Executive David R. Craig. Most of the storms we have dealt with are fast moving storms and therefore pass through the area rather quickly. Hurricane Sandy poses a serious threat to our community with long-lasting rain, winds and flooding. The storm could result in power outages throughout Harford County that may last for several days," County Executive Craig remarked.

Harford County is opening a shelter for those needing temporary housing assistance during the storm. Patterson Mill High School, located at 85 Patterson Mill Road of MD Rt. 924 near Bel Air will open at 7:00 p.m. Sunday and serve as an emergency shelter.

(more)

Harford County Emergency Operations Center Fully Activated

October 28, 2012

Page Two

Citizens with routine concerns or inquiries as a result of Hurricane Sandy may call the Harford County "Hot-Line" at 410-838-5800. Citizens with true emergencies are urged to call 9-1-1.

- 30 -

"Preserving Harford's past; promoting Harford's future"